

them in at once and as often as you can. Remember, no formal article or long-winded résumé. Just the case itself, and, if you wish, a request for discussion of the thing that baffles or interests you. Your name will not appear (unless you specifically request it). The editor will see that each case is discussed, no names mentioned, by at least one authority in the département involved. Everyone who wishes may discuss any case printed, if he makes his discussion short and to the point. Send them in. For the December issue, have your case reports in the Journal office by November 10.

THE IDEAL DOCTOR.

In 1873, M. Henri-Frederic Amiel wrote as follows in his Journal Intime:

"Why do doctors so often make mistakes? Because they are not sufficiently individual in their diagnoses or their treatment. They class a sick man under some given department of their nosology, whereas every invalid is really a special case, a unique example. How is it possible that so coarse a method of sifting should produce judicious therapeutics? Every illness is a factor simple or complex, which is multiplied by another factor, invariably complex,—the individual, that is to say, who is suffering from it, so that the result is a special problem, demanding a special solution, the more so the greater the remoteness of the patient from childhood or from country life.

"The principal grievance which I have against the doctors is that they neglect the real problem, which is to seize the unity of the individual who claims their care. Their methods of investigation are far too elementary; a doctor who does not read you to the bottom is ignorant of essentials. To me the ideal doctor would be a man endowed with profound knowledge of life and of the soul, intuitively divining any suffering or disorder of whatever kind, and restoring peace by his mere presence. Such a doctor is possible but the greater number of them lack the higher and inner life, they know nothing of the transcendent laboratories of nature; they seem to me superficial, profane, strangers to divine things, destitute of intuition and sympathy. The model doctor should be at once a genius, a saint, a man of God."

PROTECT THE FLIES AND SWAT THE DOCTORS

An organization that has for its avowed purpose "protecting the public schools and public school children from medical and ecclesiastical exploitation" has developed a very tender regard for flies. In one of its pieces of propaganda it attempts to ridicule the public health service, the State Board of Health, the Health Officer, vivisection, vaccination, fly swatting and other agencies and methods whose virtues have been frequently demonstrated.

Of course, those who do not believe in the existence of germs and disease cannot comprehend how flies can spread things that their creed proclaims as non-existent. They prefer to swat the Doctors and protect the flies, although we know

that wherever flies flourish filth is near at hand. Flies breed and live in filth, and it is inexplicable why any organization, so remote from Egyptian environment, should oppose fly-swatting. It is common knowledge that a pair of flies born in April will give origin to millions by August. It is also known that typhoid fever, diarrhoea, dysentery, tuberculosis and other diseases are carried by flies and that crepe has been placed on countless doors by the invasion of flies.

Instead of being an error of mortal mind the fly is a mortal enemy of mankind. The value and kind of "protection" which an organization that ridicules fly-swatting is capable of giving school children and the community at large can hardly be underestimated. Verily, the Jumping Frog of Calaveras had instinctively a more helpful interest in protective measures and public health work than such an organization. For when Smiley would sing out, "Flies, Dan'l, flies!" quicker'n you could wink he'd spring straight up and get the flies.

The error which underlies the entire attitude of organizations of this character in their opposition to preventive measures adopted for the public health by Federal and State laws is that they apparently believe that these laws must have their private sanction in order to become valid. They regard their private belief as superior to and independent of laws that do not conform to their private belief. Health laws, like all other laws, must be the same for all classes and not varied for particular individuals or favored classes.

It is not only a menace to the health of the public, but to the impartial administration of the laws of the land when some seek and receive special privileges because of particular beliefs coupled with particular political influence. In order to give "equal protection of the laws" to all citizens in accordance with the provision in the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States the laws must be impartially administered to all.

Singular beliefs and private interpretations fade into insignificance when compared to the broad and general application of health laws which are of vital interest to all classes of society and everyone in each community.

We cannot close our eyes to the fact that there are many defective children suffering from and handicapped by defects that can be readily remedied.

"As well at noon may we obstruct our sight

And doubt if such a thing exists as light."

It is also apparent that many of these minor ills, neglected, become major ailments and not only impede the progress of the children but produce fatal results.

Any organization that is harassing and hampering the work of the Board of Health and the activities of the Health Officers and thereby reducing the efficiency of our Health departments is destined to deserved defeat. No matter how good the intentions behind such efforts that are mischievous in effect the freedom and rights of the few must not overstep the rights of the many.

The freedom and alleged rights of individuals are frequently subordinated to and interfered with for the public good. The laws which forbid the intermarriage of whites and blacks interfere with the individual preferences of some of each color. But the health, happiness and good order of present and future generations outweigh the color-blind predilection of the few.

SIR WILLIAM OSLER'S CORRESPONDENCE

Personality is shown through the channels of correspondence as vividly as through any other medium. A letter written to the League for the Conservation of Public Health by Sir William Osler emphasizes this fact.

We all know what a busy man Dr. Osler is and the great demand that is made upon his valuable time. Yet, when the League wrote to him for certain information in reference to the Medical Practice Act, his reply was prompt, clear and terse. Although far removed from the scene of the League's activities the distance was quickly bridged because Dr. Osler instantly recognized in the League's undertaking a constructive effort to enable modern medicine to render a larger service.

We will confine ourselves to quoting the concluding paragraph from Dr. Osler's letter: "Let me know if I can be of any help at any time." Here we have exemplified the splendid spirit of co-operation that all of us may profitably emulate. This man of great scientific attainments, high honors and absorbing affairs finds time not only to answer promptly a communication from a League many thousand leagues away, but he generously offers to help at any time. "Time travels in divers paces with divers persons." Busy men like Dr. Osler must keep their time burglar-proof against the thefts of procrastination. You do not find the desks of busy men filled with unanswered letters.

A wag once said that the degree of Doctor of Letters should be conferred upon Doctors who answer their letters promptly. There may be some justification for this jocose remark, and we therefore commend Dr. William Osler's promptitude as an example for our Doctors to follow.

HEALTH HECKLERS

Have you ever heard of "health hecklers," those tireless and tiresome obstructionists that are fanatically striving against health programs, ever doing anything for the advancement of public health?

The eradication of yellow fever at Panama, through the devoted work of former Surgeon General William C. Gorgas and his scientific medical staff, made possible the building and maintenance of the Panama Canal.

Through the work of this same distinguished Doctor, using the scientific methods developed through medical research, yellow fever has recently been conquered at Guayaquil and other

points on the west coast of South America. Through skilled laboratory investigations Noguchi has been able to identify what is probably the cause of yellow fever, a step which will materially hasten the total eradication of yellow fever from the earth.

There is no community so credulous that it would rely upon the absent treatment of health hecklers to extirpate yellow fever, malaria, small-pox, etc. These obstructionists are not strong on pest prevention, they are distinguished for being pestiferous. Pestiferous people are not the kind that are entrusted with the big constructive work of the world.

In the armies and among civilians the surgeons and physicians have saved hundreds of thousands of lives. Let all understand that are attempting to obstruct the progress of modern medicine that they may heckle and handicap it but that the conservation and protection of the public health will not be abated, but that nuisances will.

ANOTHER FAKER AT LARGE.

Why cannot the doctor who is approached for money by some more or less unknown supplicant, posing as a member of the reputable medical profession, refer the aforesaid supplicant to the officers of the local medical society or the established charities? Then his claims can receive due investigation and real need can be adequately relieved. Too often the only relief is to the doctor's already anemic pocket book. The medical profession should not by training or experience be more gullible than other professions. Moreover, doctors of all men should appreciate the serious social damage too often resulting from indiscriminate charity. Send them to the responsible and established agencies for administering charity or to the officers of the local medical society.

These remarks are occasioned by a report from a physician in the southern part of the State, of the pernicious activities of one, self-styled "Dr. Manx." This Manx plays the game of asking for a few days' assisting work with a surgeon, and when sufficiently acquainted, states that he and his wife are hungry, and need a few dollars to buy food. Several supposedly intelligent doctors have fallen for this easy means of separating them from their cash. Presumably the same individual operated in Santa Clara County in 1918, holding himself out then as a "Dr. Mauz" or "Dr. Manx," with letters from the Santa Fe Company, and admission cards to the Senn clinic in Chicago. He is described as a man of about 45 years, clean shaven, dark complexion, well-dressed, about five feet ten inches tall, and weighing about 175 pounds. One check given him came back endorsed "Dr. E. Mauz."

Such oily and tortuous applicants demand investigation. It is unfortunate that the medical profession will succumb to the siren songs of such predatory grafters. Avoid them as you would gold mine and phony oil stock.